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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21 or T-21) provided approximately \$218 billion for highway and transit programs and was to expire October 1, 2003, before Congress extended the Act until February 29, 2004; and

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WHEREAS, Current legislation before the United States Congress proposes to again extend TEA-21 for several more months; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois has traditionally been a "donor state" of highway and transit programs, receiving approximately \$.92 back from every \$1.00 sent to Washington, D.C., in the form of gas tax user fees; and

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WHEREAS, Additional extensions of TEA-21 will continue to require Illinois to pay an excessive and a disproportionate amount of tax dollars to the federal highway system than is received by Illinois for our highways and mass transit needs; and

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WHEREAS, TEA-21 empowers local decision makers to develop innovative solutions and new transportation options; and

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WHEREAS, TEA-21 legislation will affect traffic congestion and commute times for drivers and transit riders alike; and

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WHEREAS, The Illinois road program is currently headed in an adverse direction with a current year diversion of \$380 million and this diversion means a loss of construction jobs which places a roadblock to a rebounding economy; and

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WHEREAS, Federal highways generate more than \$64 billion in economic growth nationally each year; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Illinois members of the 108th Congress are  
2 capable of the leadership necessary to pass new TEA-21  
3 legislation that treats Illinois fairly and provides a more  
4 proportionate return of Illinois citizens' tax dollars; and

5           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois would be able to utilize  
6 funds from new TEA-21 legislation to promote economic  
7 development and maximize construction projects that will  
8 create good-paying jobs; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United  
11 States Congress and the President of the United States to pass  
12 bipartisan TEA-21 legislation to create new programs for  
13 transportation that fairly distribute funding for highway  
14 development amongst the states; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
16 each member of the Illinois Congressional delegation, the  
17 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
18 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the President  
19 of the United States.